

REMARKS

Claims 2-5, 7, and 8 are all the claims pending in the application. New claim 8 has been added.

Objection to the Specification

As an initial matter, the Examiner has requested that Applicant submit a substitute specification, but has provided no guidance to Applicant regarding any changes to be made to the specification. In response, Applicant has amended the specification to correct typographical and grammatical errors. With respect to the rest of the specification, Applicant respectfully submits that one of ordinary skill would be able to understand the specification as originally filed, and therefore, the filing of a substitute specification is not necessary. However, if the Examiner intends to maintain the requirement for a substitute specification, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner provide guidance as to the specific corrections required by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Mori et al. (6,208,802).

Claim 2

With respect to independent claim 2, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection at least because Mori does not disclose all of the claim limitations. For example, Mori does not disclose the claimed information reproducing apparatus that continues to reproduce the image

information, and in which the controller inhibits display of the image information and reports status of the image information, when the detector detects that the vehicle is not stopped.

Mori discloses a method for avoiding malfunction in a reproduction method that reproduces only audio information or video information and audio information. In the reproduction method, the reproduction mode may be automatically switched in accordance with the state of motion of the vehicle. That is, if the vehicle is not moving the reproduction mode may be switched to a video-oriented reproduction mode, while if the vehicle is moving, the reproduction mode is switched to an audio oriented reproduction mode.¹ A control signal indicating *the state of motion* is sent to the reproduction mode determination section 93d of the system control 93.²

However, Mori does not disclose that a status of the image information is reported. The Examiner alleges that this feature is disclosed at column 18 of Mori.³ However, column 18 of Mori merely discloses that a remote control 91 is used to control the states of the television monitor or DVD player by sending infrared signals.⁴ This infrared signal is not reported by the system control 93 (controller) and is not based on a vehicle state of motion.

¹ See Mori at 21:41-49 & FIG. 12.

² See Mori at 21:49-53.

³ See Office Action dated March 24, 2005 at page 2.

⁴ See Mori at 18:13-67.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of independent claim 2.

Claim 3

With respect to independent claim 3, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection at least because Mori does not disclose all of the claim limitations. For example, Mori does not disclose the claimed information reproducing apparatus that continues to reproduce the image information, and in which the controller inhibits display of the image information and reports status of the image information, when the detector detects that the vehicle is not stopped, as is discussed above with respect to claim 2.

Moreover, Mori does not disclose that the controller is provided with a memory for previously storing report data to report the playback control state according to the report data corresponding to the control information. For example, Mori column 13, lines 23 to 25⁵ (alleged by the Examiner as corresponding to a memory for previously storing report data) merely relates to a stored data structure of the video title set 600 shown in FIG. 6. This disclosure is not related to the recited memory for previously storing report data.

Claim 4

With respect to independent claim 4, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection at least because Mori does not disclose all of the claim limitations. For example, Mori does not disclose

⁵ See Office Action dated March 24, 2005 at page 5.

the claimed information reproducing apparatus that continues to reproduce the image information, and in which the controller inhibits display of the image information and reports status of the image information, when the detector detects that the vehicle is not stopped, as is discussed above with respect to claim 2.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mori in view of Moriyama (4,680,647).

Claim 5

With respect to dependent claim 5, Applicant respectfully submits that the claim is patentable at least because of its dependency from claims 2-4 and because the combination of Mori and Moriyama does not reasonably teach or suggest the claimed information reproducing apparatus in which the status of the image information is displayed in a display form of a superimposition display.

The Examiner acknowledges that Mori does not disclose that a “play back control state is displayed in a display form of a superposition display.”⁶ Accordingly, the Examiner looks to the superposition display of Moriyama in an attempt to make up for this deficiency. However, Moriyama’s mere disclosure of the use of characters superimposed on a display screen⁷ does not

⁶ See Office Action dated March 24, 2005 at page 5.

⁷ See Moriyama at 26:5-9.

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make up for the fact that Mori does not disclose that the status of the image information is displayed.

Claim 7

With respect to dependent claim 7, Applicant respectfully submits that the claim is patentable at least because of its dependency from claims 2-4.

New Claims

Finally, new dependent claim 8 has been added in order to provide additional claim coverage. Claim 8 recites that “when a certain time has passed or a direction of start of a moving picture is given, the controller automatically returns the display to a play back of the moving picture.” Applicant respectfully submits that this claim is patentable at least because of its dependency from claims 2, 3, and 4.

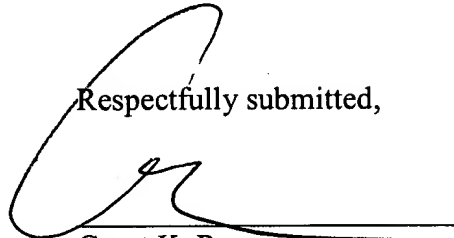
Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Grant K. Rowan', written over a horizontal line.

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